

Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Monday - 24 January 1955

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1. Mr. Saunders has expressed his concern to Mr. Houston and myself regarding H. R. 34, a bill to establish a Joint Committee on the Budget. This Committee will be composed of 16 members from the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. The Joint Committee shall inform itself on all matters relating to the budget, advising the Appropriations Committees of the Congress on pertinent matters, including revisions in appropriations in the light of budget estimates on the necessity for minimum expenditures. It shall also call to the attention of standing committees of the Congress any need for changes in legislation and deviations from basic agency legislative authorizations. The Committee shall have the powers relating to hearings and subpoena, together with a staff, and the staff shall have the right to examine the fiscal books and documents of any agency of the Government, together with data relating to proposed appropriations. Similar legislation has been introduced in succeeding sessions of the Congress for several years, and last year a similar bill passed the Senate but died in the House.

2. Mr. Sikes, of the House Committee on Appropriations, has introduced a bill to establish a Joint Committee on Intelligence Matters.

3. Sen. Langer has introduced S. Res. 27, to authorize the Senate Committee on Government Operations to make a full study of the Government leasing of space or buildings to determine whether rates have been exorbitant, the extent to which political connections have figured in the leases, and to determine the extent to which buildings already owned by the Government have been utilized prior to additional leases. This bill has been referred to DD/A and the Chief of Logistics for comment, but it is not believed that it will pass in its present form.

4. Mr. Frelinghuysen has introduced H.R. 2590, to establish a Commission on Internal Security of 12 members, 4 each to be appointed by the President, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. The Commission is to undertake a full investigation and study of the Government's loyalty and security programs to evaluate their effectiveness and to determine any needed changes.

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5. Cong. Rees (R., Kans.) has introduced H. R. 2425, to provide for training of Government employees. Mr. Rees has specifically exempted CIA from the definition of Departments or independent establishments of the Executive Branch and from the definition of employee in this bill. The bill repeals Section 4 of the CIA Act of 1949 in regard to training of CIA personnel, but the provisions of Section 4 thus repealed are specifically re-enacted as Section 202 of the Rees bill. The bill specifically provides that CIA (together with TVA and AEC, which are similarly handled) shall have access to all information regarding training of Government employees which is required to be made available under the provision of the Act, but shall furnish training reports to the Civil Service Commission only to the extent deemed appropriate by the Director of Central Intelligence. The purpose of this bill appears to be to place all Government training under one statute. It has been referred to the Director of Training and AD/Personnel for comment.

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